

Corporate volunteering

We welcome your interest in volunteering for us here at AgeUK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Below is a little information about our charity and our role. Please do visit our website www.ageukcap.org.uk to find out about us and what we do and meet some of the service users and our staff.

Our charity is a brand partner to the national charity, Age UK, but we are an independent, local charity which exists to provide support services and information to older people, their families and carers living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. You can find out more about our independence in this [short video](#).

We appreciate your desire to support us, and we want to provide meaningful and worthwhile opportunities for your staff which are of benefit to the service users, whilst complying with relevant Safeguarding and Health & Safety legislation. Set out below are some of our ideas of ways in which you can get involved and support us, and enable you and us to plan and deliver your volunteering to make a positive, and hopefully, ongoing contribution to the well-being of our service users.

We always welcome ideas and initiatives from companies and their employees and are happy to discuss these with you and will support these ventures where it is practicable to do so and meets our service users' needs and charity objectives.

Fundraising

We are always grateful for any offers to raise funds for us as we rely heavily on fundraising to enable us to offer many of our services.

Your staff may like to think of ways they can raise funds for us, and we can promote these on our website and social media; however, we do have a particular project which is well suited to workplaces. In the autumn we run our "Slip into Slippers" campaign where we encourage schools, workplaces and groups to arrange to go in to study/work wearing their slippers and make a donation to our charity. We can post pictures on our social media and encourage participants to do so in their own media, to raise awareness of our work and need for funding.

There are also opportunities to raise funds for special, specific equipment to enhance our service delivery for service users. If you are interested in this, we will discuss with you the possibilities so that anything you purchase is both useful and a benefit to our service users.

We have [an A to Z of fundraising ideas](#) that might give you some ideas on how your employees can get involved. Many involve working as a team and provide an opportunity for your staff to get to know each other, in a fun way.

Send us your Ink Cartridges

Recycle4Charity is a free and easy to use ink recycling programme, simply follow this [link and register](#) to send your empty cartridges for recycling. Help us to raise funds and save the planet!

Do your employees knit or crochet?

You could display our leaflets and encourage your staff, contacts and customers to join our [Big Knit campaign](#). In 2022 this campaign raised £3771.25 for us. The 2023 campaign is about to launch. Your staff could gather to knit at lunch time once a week/month – share patterns, their creations or teach others how to do it? They can involve their families, children's schools, you could hold a competition.

Shopping On-Line

You can display our leaflets and encourage your staff, contacts and customers to generate free funds for us by making a small change to the way they do their on-line shopping. You can enable free donations are made to us by a number of retailers, by shopping via [Give As You Live App](#).

Can you make your online business purchases via the app? Hotel, venues, train bookings, and much more could all generate free funds for us at no cost to you.

Match Funding

Demonstrate your support and motivate your staff even further by showing your business commitment. Pledge to match (or double!) the sum of money your staff either raise or donate.

Christmas Giving

Share our annual Wish List of gifts to purchase and donate, so that our staff can pass on a Christmas gift to our service users who will not receive anything, or very little, at this poignant time of the year when many older people find themselves feeling more alone and lonely. Some representative employees could come and visit one of our centres with some of the gifts.

Sponsorship

We welcome sponsorship of events and activities throughout the year. By sponsoring an event your staff can either be fully involved or provide the funds for the materials and expenses, and in return you will receive some great PR and local media coverage.

It may be that your company can offer a room and refreshments for a thank you event for our volunteers. We like to thank our 450+ volunteers for the valuable support they provide to us, often over many years. Offers of sponsorship for coffee mornings, afternoon tea etc are an excellent way of helping us to show our appreciation to our volunteers without taking funds from our activities for older people.

You may like to fund entertainment or an activity in one of our day centres. Our day centre service users enjoy a full programme of activities, but the cost can limit the range of our programme. We also need to purchase materials for craft, cooking and art activities. Could your team provide the funds for this?

Could we be your charity of the year

Please consider choosing AgeUK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as your Charity of the Year. In return we would offer joint branding on fundraising materials and any events, as well as positive PR and local media coverage.

Activities

Do you have any talented individuals or teams in your company?

Are you able to support our charity by allowing your staff paid time out of the work environment to get involved in our day centres? This can be offering an activity, such as running a quiz, a talent show, or bringing and serving afternoon tea. There are lots of possibilities and we are always happy to discuss ideas with you to find something which your staff are keen to offer to our service users.

Your staff may have hobbies they could share with our service users, either by talking about it, giving a demonstration, or a practical workshop (e.g crafting)

Publicity

Sharing what we do and our need for volunteers and support is vital to enable us to reach the many older people who need our services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

You can support us in the following ways:

- Displaying our leaflets in your reception area
- Sharing our posts on your social media
- Delivering our leaflets
- Donating raffle prizes at fundraising events

Telephone Befriending

This is a way your staff can volunteer in their own time or individually during work hours.

You may have staff who would like to support an isolated older person on a one-to-one basis. Our Telephone Befrienders are matched with an older person and call them once a week for a chat for about 20 minutes. These calls take place at a time convenient to the volunteer and older person, so can take place during work hours or in the evenings and weekends. Could you allow your staff 20 minutes out of the working day to make someone's day? Alternatively, could you promote this to your staff via your internal email and communications? Telephone Befrienders are DBS checked and fully trained and supported throughout their volunteering.

Hopefully this will have given you and your staff some ideas on how you can support us. We are grateful for whatever you can offer to us and will endeavour to make the experience worthwhile and enjoyable for your staff.

Please let me know if you would get involved or have any further questions. If you would like us to visit your workplace to present our work and volunteering opportunities to your staff, then this can be arranged.